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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with the President
of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

Notetakers: Clarence Johnson,
Jenna Galyean, Chris Gilmore and
Kevin Nelson

DATE, TIME July 2, 2003, 7:38 - 7:57 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir, how are you today? (U)

President Putin: George, I am happy to hear you. I, like you,
am very well. (U)

The President: We were very impressed by the outfit you wore
when you saw the Queen of England. (U)

President Putin: I know that you are pulling my leg. (U)

The President: That's right, I am, because I know you well
enough to know that wasn't your first choice of clothes. (U)

President Putin: We say that you cannot get things right
without a bottle of vodka. I will have my chance to laugh at
you when you visit in November. I heard you are going there in
November, so I will be pleased to see you in that suit. (U)

The President: Maybe I can borrow the one you wore, because I
don't own one either. (U)

President Putin: I must tell you, I didn't have one either.
They made it for me special, and that was my first trial. I

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(must tell you, there are some complicated things for your security services, because you have to travel for five minutes in an open carriage. (U)

The President: Thank you for the warning. (U)

President Putin: This looks beautiful, but we have to be attentive in our times. (U)

The President: Absolutely. That is right. (U)

President Putin: But, in general, I must confess to you, the visit was very successful. We had several talks with Tony. They were very informative and substantive. (U)

The President: Yes, he was very pleased. That's great. (U)

President Putin: It seems it was useful. (U)

The President: Listen, I am calling to visit on a couple of subjects. First, the strategic dialogue. From my perspective, we're making good progress. Respective cabinet officers are talking. I hope you feel the same way. (S)

President Putin: It seems to me that was a good proposal and we have to use that mechanism. (S)

The President: Do you have any issues I need to bring to my people's attention? I know that Hadley and Chernov met. (S)

President Putin: I believe what we are discussing touches on sensitive things, therefore we need confidence. With regard to Iran and North Korea, some bilateral topics, we need to focus our attention. But I would like to first congratulate you with some advances in the Middle East. It was a brave decision to make a trip there after the G8. Most of the doubters thought nothing would come out of it, and that you staked your authority on that. Now there is some positive movement, and we will do our best to facilitate it. (S)

The President: Thank you, Vladimir. I am obviously pleased. On the other hand, I am very aware of reality. All it takes is one suicide to upset the progress. We have to remain steadfast. You are very steady in the war against terrorism and we can't let terrorists disrupt the plans of peaceful men. (S)

(President Putin: That's right. (U)

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The President: Listen Vladimir, two other things. On North Korea, thank you for continuing to analyze and pressure North Korea. I absolutely believe by working together we can convince Kim Jong Il to stop nuclear weapons, as well as allow the world to help him feed his people. The other issue is Iran, and I thank you as well for that. The EU has now begun to pressure Iran very seriously about its nuclear ambitions. The IAEA is becoming more involved. My only point is we speak with a common voice. It will make it less likely the Iranians will feel emboldened to develop nuclear weapons. We're making progress, and I want to thank you for your leadership on the issues. (S)

President Putin: I would like also to tell you a couple of things about Iran and North Korea. (S)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Putin: We have just received here in Moscow Mr. Agazadeh, who is the head of the nuclear service in Iran. We just used that visit to inform them of our concern regarding what you just mentioned, and that is development of nuclear energy for military purposes. I would like to stress once again what I already told you in St. Petersburg. We should not omit or make any steps that make it possible for Iran to get a hold of nuclear materials for nuclear weapons. Our Minister of Defense and Minister of Atomic Energy made that clear to him. We stressed once again that Teheran should cooperate with the IAEA in good faith, all its nuclear programs must be fully transparent. I made the same point clearly to President Khatami on June 16. What I mean is their signature of the additional protocol with the IAEA and Iranian guarantees to put all Iranian programs under the control of the IAEA. We have the assurances of the Iranian side that they are prepared to do that, but I don't know how they will do it in practice. And more than that, we put pressure on the Iranians that they should listen more to IAEA with regard to centrifuges and environmental samples, and I spoke to you about that in St. Petersburg. I would like to remind you that those centrifuges were supplied by English, German, and Dutch companies. (S)

The President: Right. (U)

President Putin: Of course, in our dialogue, we need trust and openness and we should not use this for dishonest competition.

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The President: Yes, that is right. (U)

President Putin: We continue to follow closely the developments in North Korea. As we agreed, in mid-July we will have closed consultations at the level of deputy ministers of foreign affairs in Moscow and look at how the situation is developing. We just hinted to the North Koreans that we are prepared to offer our territory for whatever talks they would like to have with the Chinese, Japanese, Americans and South Koreans. We need to keep our finger on the pulse of this matter, and we will keep in touch with you regarding this problem. (S)

The President: Yes, that would be great, Vladimir. Thank you for that. I just wanted to stay on top of the issues as they evolve. By working together, we can get a lot accomplished. (S)

President Putin: Thank you very much and I am pleased to hear your voice. (U)

The President: Great, we will talk soon. (U)

President Putin: I am getting ready for my trip to the U.S. and Camp David, and very shortly I will send you a reply, an extended reply, to the letter you sent me on May 8 on economic issues. I would like to thank you for your assistance on our accession to FATF, the group on money laundering. We are nearing the date of July 4th, Independence Day. I congratulate you and your family and all the American people. (S)

The President: Thank you, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: I hope you will find a minute to talk on July 6. I would like to talk to you for one minute to greet you on your birthday. In Russia, we do not congratulate people on personal events beforehand. (U)

The President: Absolutely, I will tell Condi I am available at your convenience on Sunday. (U)

President Putin: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: Listen, I will talk to you Sunday. (U)

President Putin: I hug you. Thank you, thank you for your call. (U)

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(The President: Good-bye. (U)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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